

I-15 in Provo to close for demolition of Center Street flyover

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PROVO -- The Provo Center Street interchange as residents know it will soon be a thing of the past.

Interstate 15 in Provo will be closing down today to allow crews to demolish the southbound flyover off-ramp. Crews will be closing the freeway in both directions beginning at 11 p.m., with all lanes reopening at 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

According to the Utah Department of Transportation website, crews will remove bridge decks on the southbound off-ramp heading east into Provo. Travelers will be directed through several detours during the closure. Northbound traffic will be sent off the freeway at University Avenue and will take a detour through 300 South to 500 West and will re-enter the freeway on the northbound on-ramp at Center Street. Southbound traffic will be directed off the Center Street off-ramp and back on the Center Street on-ramp.

All southbound off-ramp traffic will use a new signalized ramp until the entire rebuild is complete in two years.

Provo city spokeswoman Helen Anderson said the city expects the freeway upgrade to have some impact on the downtown area and local stores on Center Street. She said she hopes patrons will not mind the detour and will go out of their way to support local business during the construction.

While there will be some impact on Center Street businesses, Anderson said the construction is worth it in the long run. She said the contractor is doing a good job on the rebuild and hasn't needed to stop traffic entirely from using the interchange.

"We're really pleased that the contractor has found some way to keep that flow going," she said.

